

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for extracting a plurality of structured data from one or more  
5 information sources, comprising:

receiving said information sources;  
receiving at least one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user  
interface;  
receiving one or more templates, each of said templates having said at least one  
10 pattern descriptor;  
applying said one or more templates to said information sources;  
generating said plurality of structured data in a common format by parsing said  
information sources with said one or more templates; and  
storing said plurality of structured data in said common format.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein after storing said plurality of structured data,  
said method further comprises communicating said plurality of structured data to an  
application configured to process said common format.

20 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said application is a database application.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said common format for said structured data is  
a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein before receiving said one or more templates,  
5 said method further comprises,  
generating said one or more templates by selecting a file from said information  
sources, and  
having a user select one or more pattern descriptors to describe said file.

10 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising permitting said user to define said  
one or more pattern descriptors.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein before receiving said one or more templates,  
said method further comprises permitting said user to select one or more templates  
15 from a template library.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing of said structured data is selected  
from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin,  
and a complete bin.

9. A system for extracting a plurality of structured data from one or more information sources, comprising:

    a memory configured to receive said information sources, said memory configured to store one or more templates wherein each of said templates has at least

5     one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user interface;

    an input device configured to receive said at least one pattern descriptor from a user interacting with a graphical user interface;

    a processor programmed to:

        apply said one or more templates to said information sources;

10     generate said plurality of structured data in a common format by parsing said information sources with said one or more templates; and  
        communicate said plurality of structured data in said common format.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said processor is configured to communicate

15     said plurality of structured data to an application configured to process said common format.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said application is a database application.

20     12. The system of claim 9 wherein said common format for said structured data is a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

13. The system of claim 9 wherein said memory stores a template library from which a user can select one or more templates.

5 14. The system of claim 9 wherein said memory stores said structured data in a storage bin selected from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, and incomplete bin, and a complete bin.

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15. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for extracting a plurality of structured data from one or more information sources, comprising:

- receiving said information sources;
- 5 receiving at least one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user interface;
- receiving one or more templates, each of said templates having said at least one pattern descriptor;
- applying said one or more templates to said information sources;
- 10 generating said plurality of structured data in a common format by parsing said information sources with said one or more templates; and
- storing said plurality of structured data in said common format.

16. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein after storing said plurality of structured data, said method further comprises communicating said plurality of structured data to an application configured to process said common format.

17. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 16 wherein said application is a database application.

18. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein said common format for said structured data is a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

5 19. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises,

generating said one or more templates by selecting a file from said plurality of information sources, and

10 having a user select one or more pattern descriptors to describe said file.

20. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 16 further comprising permitting said user to define said one or more pattern descriptors.

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21. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises permitting said user to select one or more templates from a template library.

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22. The computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein said storing of said structured data is selected from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin, and a complete bin.

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23. A graphical user interface for extracting a plurality of structured data from one or more information sources, comprising:

a first button that permits a user to receive said information sources;  
a second button that permits a user to select at least one pattern descriptor;  
10 a third button that permits a user to select one or more templates, each of said templates having at least one pattern descriptor; and  
a first display window accessible from said graphical user interface, said first display window configured to display said plurality of structured data in a common format wherein said plurality of structured data is generated by parsing said 15 information sources with said one or more templates that have said at least one pattern descriptor.

24. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein said first display window is configured to display said structured data in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) 20 format.

25. The graphical user interface of claim 23 further comprising a second display window that permits a user to generate one or more templates by selecting a file from said information sources.

5 26. The graphical user interface of claim 25 further comprising a third display window configured to permit said user to define said one or more pattern descriptors.

27. The graphical user interface of claim 23 further comprising a fourth button configured to permit said user to view a template.

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28. The graphical user interface of claim 23 further comprising a plurality of buttons that represent a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin, and a complete bin.